

Appln No.: 09/673,964

Amendment Dated: September 5, 2003

Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2003

#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 30, 2003 for the above-captioned application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants request an extension of time sufficient to make this paper timely, and enclose the fee. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0610.

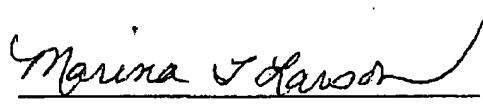
The Examiner stated that the application did not contain an abstract on a separate sheet. This is an anomaly of processing of a PCT application, because the abstract is separated from the application upon filing. A replacement abstract is provided herewith.

The Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statement was not in compliance with the requirements of the rules because copies of the references were not provided. Applicants respectfully point out, however, that the USPTO has acknowledged receipt of copies of the references in a Form DO/EO/903 mailed January 4, 2001 (copy attached). Accordingly, while Applicants enclose replacement copies of the requested references so that they may be considered by the Examiner, no fee should be required with this submission.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-28 under 35 USC § 101, stating that they are directed to mathematical operations and that as such they are not patentable subject matter. Claim 15 has been amended to recite positive method steps including the steps of obtaining and processing a sample. This amendment is believed to overcome the rejection. In addition, claim 20 has been amended to delete a list that was presented as merely exemplary.

For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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